

IDEA-0207  
Copy // of 11

3 March 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR : Deputy Director of Security

SUBJECT : Status of Pilot Assessment Program, Project IDEALIST

REFERENCE : A. Operations Policy Letter No. 12, dated 4 December 1960

B. Memorandum from ASST CH/DPD to Deputy Director of Security, dated 9 January 1961; Subject: "Assessment of Pilots Involved in Overflight of the Soviet Bloc"

[REDACTED]

1. In the interests of clarification, I believe a few points brought out in Reference B should be somewhat amplified. First of all, it was our intention that the proposed assessment in this instance be limited to pilot personnel of Project IDEALIST. We are currently engaged in an across-the-board screening of the ten remaining IDEALIST pilots, with a view to materially reducing their number to conform with the delimited mission of that Project.

2. This present screening program is fairly well along as of this date, and includes not only the results provided by [REDACTED] as outlined in paragraph 2, Reference B, but inputs from unit commanders dealing with operational considerations, updated security and CI records, and medical information brought out in an extensive physiological rescreening undertaken by the Lovelace Clinic in Albuquerque, New Mexico. This phase of our planned reduction program will not be completed for several months.

3. The action suggested by paragraph 2, Reference B, will necessarily come after the IDEALIST pilots are reduced from their present numbers, and prior to such time as any operational flights of the Soviet Bloc are actively considered. In other words, DPD plans to effect reduction of pilot strength simply as an in-house administrative action, leaving any more formal consideration of risk of capture factors, as outlined in Reference A, to a later date. As soon as we have a clearer picture of the time enveloped for our

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actions, I shall be in touch with you. In the meantime, I do not believe there is any requirement for immediate action on your part, nor on the part of any Agency element acting in support to you under your risk of capture responsibilities.

JAMES A. CUNNINGHAM, JR.  
Assistant Chief  
DPD-DD/P

Attachment  
Ops Policy Letter No. 12

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DPD-DD/P:JACunningham, Jr./mg

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